

# 14<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL OHALAH CONFERENCE “HIT’OR’RI: WAKING UP THE LIGHT”



## OMNI Interlocken Resort – Broomfield, Colorado January 8-11, 2012

*Note: During the Shabbaton and Conference, please be sure to use personal grooming products that are free of scents and fragrances, so we can be sensitive to those who have allergies and other health challenges when exposed to fragrances. Please refrain from wearing perfume, natural oils or essences containing fragrances during the Shabbaton and Conference.*

### Saturday Evening – January 7

8:30 – 9:30 pm     **ALEPH HASHPA'AH Smicha Ceremony and Reception**  
 Ordination of the new *mashpi'im/mashpi'ot*     (Interlocken B)

### Sunday – January 8

All day     **Registration**     (OMNI Atrium)  
**Informational materials/exhibits**     (Foyer outside Interlocken B)

2:00-4:00 pm     **ALEPH Smicha Ceremony**     (Interlocken B)  
 Ordination of ALEPH Rabbis, Cantors and Rabbinic Pastors

4:00- 6:00 pm     **Smicha Reception & Freilich Celebration**     (Interlocken B,C,D)

4:00- 6:00 pm     **Shuk**     (Interlocken C,D)  
 The *Shuk* is an opportunity to buy books, CD's, art, jewelry, and Judaica. Come see what your creative colleagues are selling. (Note: The Shuk will also be open

tomorrow afternoon, but there is also other programming at that time, so please plan accordingly.)

- 6:00-7:30 pm     **Dinner**     (Interlocken A)  
-*Birkat HaMazon*: Rabbi David J. Cooper
- 7:30-9:00 pm     Plenary: "*Hit'or'ri: Waking up the Light*"     (Interlocken B)  
7:30-8:00 pm     **Bruchim Ha Ba-im** / Opening welcome  
Rabbi Jan Salzman, Program Committee Chair  
Rabbi Yocheved Mintz, Outgoing OHALAH President  
Rabbi Lori Klein, Chair of ALEPH Board  
Rabbinic Chaplain David Daniel Klipper  
A brief welcome to new and returning attendees and members and introduction to the exciting offerings of this year's Conference.
- 8:00-8:20 pm     **Maariv EnCHANTment**     (Interlocken B)  
-Rabbi Shefa Gold
- 8:30 9:00 pm     "**In the Twinkling of an I: An Enlightening, Illuminating, Incandescent---and Some Say 'Compact Fluorescent'"**  
- Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg and Rabbi Laura Duhan Kaplan  
Introduction to the Conference Theme: "*Hit'or'ri---* Waking Up the Light." Join our keynote speakers for a light-hearted discussion of the Light of Consciousness
- 9:00 pm     **Closing Niggun**: Rabbi Jan Salzman
- 9:15 pm     **Special Meetings**:
- ALEPH Rabbinical Students     (Interlocken B)
  - OHALAH Board meets     (Spruce)
- 9:30-11:00 pm     **Late Night**
- **Rabbi Sami Barth: Text Study – "*Halachot of a Mensch*"**     (Alder)  
Readings in "*sifrut halacha*" (aka "Codes") that guide a person to behavior that is not only "kosher" - but also *mentschlich*. Looking at Shabbat guests, parents and children, teaching dynamics, visiting the sick... and congregational dynamics.
  - **Music and Musings at the Piano Bar**  
Pianists and singers are invited to tickle the ivories and share their talents. The lovely piano is located prominently in the atrium and is available whenever we have free time.

- **Shmooze and News** (Atrium, Pub, and Conversation Areas)  
The OMNI has several conversation areas and a fabulous pub for late-night schmoozing. Make an appointment for the spa or avail yourself of the 24-hour-a-day workout facilities, hot tub, and heated outdoor pool.

**Monday - January 9, 2012**

7:30-8:30 am

**Shacharit Davennen:**

- **Traditional Renewal**  
–Cantor Abbe Lyons and Cantor Michal Rubin; Torah leyners: Cantor Rachel Anne Hersh, Rabbi Alicia Magal and Rabbi Sue Morningstar
- **Creative Renewal: “Shacharit with Rumi”** (Alder)  
-Rabbi Ed Stafman; Torah leyners: Rabbi Jan Salzman
- **Movement: A meaningful davennen** (Spruce)  
**experience integrating body and soul.**  
-Rabbi Orna Triguboff

7:45-9:10 am

**Breakfast**

(Interlocken A)

- *Birkat HaMazon*:

All Day – By appointment: Cantorial workshops with Chazzan Jack Kessler (?)

All Day – As privately scheduled: ALEPH *Vaad* with Rabbi Marcia Prager (Board Room)

9:15 -9:46 am

**PLENARY: “ALEPH - From Light to Light”**

(Interlocken B)

Outgoing Executive Director Rabbi Debra Kolodny gives us a teaching and incoming Executive Director Joe Laur shares his path to ALEPH as we welcome him.

9:45- 11:30 am

**PLENARY: “Crossing Boundaries of Consciousness: Rosenzweig, Levinas, and Ditto the Cat”**

(Interlocken B)

-Rabbi Laura Duhan Kaplan

*“Everything else is already no longer immediate expression, but explanation.” -- Franz Rosenzweig*

Spiritual, interpersonal or interspecies experience can open a door into a wider world of connected consciousness. Some teachers say that the content of these mystical experiences cannot be put into words. Yet somehow, we grasp new knowledge and integrate it into

our very way of seeing the world. How do these inner shifts work?

Modern Jewish philosophers such as Rosenzweig and Levinas have borrowed language from phenomenology and idealism to express their answers. Feline spiritual teachers such as Ditto, Yogi, and Koi have used body language to express their answers. Even if words and behaviors *are* only after-the fact explanations, they are still powerful conceptual tools. They help us understand how we meet God, how we grow through empathic experience, how metaphors open and re-open ideas. We can use these explanatory tools to shape and further our own growth as spiritual teachers and pastoral care givers.

- 12:00-1:00 pm      **Lunch** (Interlocken A)  
- *Birkat HaMazon*: Rabbi Shefa Gold  
Private Luncheon Meeting:  
• Canadian ALEPH Board & ALEPH Board (Aspen)  
• ALEPH Ordination Program *Vaad* (Noon – 2:15) (Board Room)
- 1:15-2:15 pm      **PLENARY: Ethics: “Shining Light on the Shadow”** (Interlocken B)  
- Rabbi Shefa Gold, Rabbi Richard Simon and Shefa Gold, and Rabbinic Pastor David Daniel Klipper  
We are witnesses to a disturbing time in which many people in positions of power have abused that power in the unethical treatment of others. As teachers and leaders, we need to address this serious issue. A spiritual practice in which self-inquiry is vital can help us answer some of these questions: What throws us into ethical/spiritual darkness? How do we lose sight of the Holy Light that informs us? Why do we sometimes descend into the darkness of the unconscious?
- 2:30 – 4:00pm      **90-MINUTE WORKSHOPS:**  
**A) “Conference of the Birds: Returning to the Unitive Mystical Journey for Jews and Muslims”** – Rabbi Aubrey L. Glazer & Elyssa N. Wortzman (Aspen)  
Come take flight upon the perennial journey of Jews and Muslims toward reuniting with the Divine, with a group of 30 birds and their leader, the hoopoe, as told in The Conference of the Birds. The Sufi path will be overlaid with R. Yitzhaq Morgenstern’s *Derekh haYihud*, revealing opportunities for interfaith dialogue. This workshop explores how our souls, symbolized by the birds, cross seven valleys/stations, from *Talab/Kisufin* (Yearning) to

Fana/*Devekut* (Reunion in God). We'll explore the birds as guiding animal presences through art, *piyyut*, *birkot ha-shakhar* and *Perek Shirah*.

**B) Israel Panel** - Rabbi Ilan Glazer, Rabbi Riqi Kosovske, Rabbi Sue Morningstar, Rabbinic Student Hanalei Laner, and others  
(Alder)

What is our relationship to Israel? Why does it pull at our hearts so deeply? In this panel presentation, we will leave aside the political conversation for the moment, and instead look at other points of inspiration that Israel embodies and exports to the rest of the Jewish world, e.g., Women of the Wall, the music of *Nava Tehila*, *Shira Chadasha* and other emergent Israeli congregations? And let's not forget its centers of study, such as *Pardes* and Hartman Institute; its thriving environmental centers of education, and so on. Join Rabbis Riqi Kosovske, Ilan Glazer, Sue Morningstar, and Rabbinic Student Hanalei Laner, and others who have recently spent time in Israel.

**C) "Waking up the Light in the Christian Gospels, for Rabbis"** -  
-Rabbi Ed Stafman (Spruce)

For many Rabbis who work in or with interfaith communities, knowing the New Testament can be as important as knowing rabbinic texts. In this workshop, we will become familiar with the synoptic gospels (Mark, Matthew and Luke) to learn about their timing, their (separate) agendas, and how Jews, emerging Christians, and Romans would have understood them in the late first century. We will briefly explore the relationship of these texts to rabbinic texts and how they led to the parting of the ways between Judaism and Christianity

**D) "Transformative & Emancipatory Judaism"** (Birch)  
- Rabbis Arthur Waskow & Michael Lerner

The movement for Jewish renewal grew out of a crisis in American society as a whole---in spiritual, political, ecological, sexual, and many other dimensions. Its original intention was to renew Judaism so as to address that universal crisis. In this generation, the underlying crisis is even sharper. We are working to create a spiritually rooted Transformative and Emancipatory Judaism committed to vigorous action-- for example, for a two-state peace between Israel and Palestine; for an end



achieve that altered state within the liturgical setting?  
How can our leadership be attuned to create opportunities for communal worship that is joyful, ecstatic, and accessible? This workshop can be taken on its own, or in conjunction with the second session, offered on Tuesday.

**C) “What is an Interim Rabbi to Do? Or Not?”**

-Rabbi Melissa Wenig (Spruce)

Many congregations are making the transition from a past (and often beloved) spiritual leader to their future spiritual leader by hiring interim clergy, whose primary function is to hold the community in loving presence while the search committee does its work. Their choice will probably NOT be you. If you have been in the role of an interim, are in one now or are interested in this growing field, this workshop is for you.

How different from a permanent position this can be! Filled with the expectations of a community of the Rabbi, and *visa versa*; the emotional challenges of being fully present while a search process is going on. We will explore the balance of maintaining the tradition of the community while needing to infuse it with new energy; how to work with the sadness, fear and uncertainty of a community in transition; how to be true to your own authentic self while honoring the community’s traditions; and saying hello, saying goodbye and finally letting go.

**D) “Finding the Light in *Talmud Yerushalmi*”** (Birch)

– Rabbi Judith Abrams

Much of the *siddur* comes from the mysticism of the Talmud of the land of Israel. In this fun, informative text-study session based on *Merkavah* Mysticism we'll examine the meditation/mysticism of the *Yerushalmi* and how it permeates our prayers.

**E) “*V'chol Mi She-Oskin: Praised Be Those Who are Involved*”-**

-Rabbi Shalom Schachter (Fir)

If we treasure religious freedom, support separation of "church" and state and don't want the state legislating parochial social values, how can Rabbis and other religious leaders/activists justify getting involved in elections and



You need only a willingness to move in new ways, and to pray with your body. No background in dance is required. Rabbi Ori Har-DiGennaro loves to dance and she will lead us in this extraordinary experience.

- **Music and Musing** (Piano Bar)
- **Shmooze and News** (Conversation Pit, Pub, Lobby)

**Tuesday, January 10**

7:30-8:30 am

**Shacharit:**

- **Traditional Renewal:**  
 “Grounding the Mystery” (Birch)  
 -Rabbis Sue Morningstar and T’mimah Ickovits
- **Creative Renewal**  
 “Zeh Shemi L’Olam/This is My Name Forever” (Alder)  
 --*Sh’mot 3:15*  
 -Rabbi Hana Tifferet Siegel  
 The sun is rising, the moon is full. How are we called to serve during this week of *Sh’mot*? In the Presence of the Burning Bush we sit, we stand, we move. On holy ground we listen, we breathe, we sing. The prayers of our hearts are awakened.  
*Baruch Shem K’vod Malchuto l’Olam Va’ed.*
- **Movement / Meditation** (Spruce)  
 “Tai Chi Shacharit”  
 -Rabbi Andrew Hahn

7:45-9:10 am

**Breakfast**

- *Birkat HaMazon*:

Private breakfast meeting:

- 8:00-9:00 OHALAH Board (Spruce)

All Day – By appointment: Cantorial workshops with Chazzan Jack Kessler (?)

All Day – As privately scheduled: ALEPH *Vaad* with Rabbi Marcia Prager (Board Room)

9:15 -9:45 am

**PLENARY: "How Many Rabbinic Pastors Does It Take To Screw In a Light Bulb?"** (Interlocken B)

A short, fun story-filled and informative view of your fellow ordained clergy, the Rabbinic Pastors.

9:45- 11:30 am

**PLENARY: “Surfing the *Ratzo VaShov*; or 13 Ways to Look Upon Snoozing and Waking”** (Interlocken B)

- Rabbi Elliot Ginsburg

It is April and I gaze on a slender branch that contains both the dead berry of last summer, and this year's tender bud, holding both in my awareness. So much of spiritual practice is a matter of learning how to modulate awareness, shifting scale and focus, moving through worlds of consciousness: negotiating life's expansions and contractions, periods of flow and dryness, holding life and death, presence and absence, that which we deem ordinary (*chol*) and that which we experience as extraordinary (*kadosh*). (*Each state of awareness, and its unique Shem—its unique divine Name.*) Sometimes we oscillate between states, between being particle and being wave, and sometimes we stretch to hold the stunning simultaneity of it all, so that we realize (in the words of our first example): *memit umehayyeh be-vat ahat*. What are the implications of this movement: for how we call God and how we treat the other? For how we pray? And what do *tzimtzum* and Ditto the cat have to do with this?

Moving from the local to the cosmic, from the cosmic to the comic—while deftly avoiding, *please Gott*, the kamikazic—we will explore the pulsing of awareness encoded in Jewish mystical traditions. Our tools will be select kabbalistic and chasidic texts/practices, holy punning, and what Thelonious Monk might call the “rhythm-a-ning of our own lives.”

12:00-1:00 pm      **Lunch**      (Interlocken A)

*-Birkat HaMazon:*

Private Lunch Meeting:

- OHALAH/ALEPH Boards (Spruce)
- Rabbinic Pastors Association (Fir)
- ALEPH Ordination Program Vaad (Noon – 2:15) (Board Room)

1:15-2:45 pm      **PLENARY: A New Independent OHALAH – “VaY’hi Or -- Let us bring in the light together.”**      (Interlocken B)

With light and love, we will bid farewell to Rabbi Yocheved Mintz, our President for the past four years, and to our other outgoing Board members, immediate Past-President, Rabbi David Shneyer, and Rabbi Howard Cohen, and elect our new president, Rabbi Dan Goldblatt, and Vice-Presidents Rabbis Ed Stafman and Shalom Schachter, and pass the torch to our newly installed 2012 Board. We will shed light on the evolving shape of our new form, as an independent association of diverse, pluralistic, Jewish

Renewal Rabbis, Cantors, Rabbinic Pastors, and Chaplains. And we will begin the lively, enlightening conversation on renewing a healthy and constructive context and holy *makom* in which our future creative, sacred work can be done. Join us for this matchless (puns totally intended) session.

3:00-4:30 pm

### **WORKSHOPS**

#### **A) “Your Stories to Awaken the Light”- Rabbi Chava Bahle (Alder)**

What comes from the heart enters the heart. Stories have a unique capacity to help us awaken the light of the heart, mind and soul. In this workshop participants are asked to prepare and share a short story – either of personal experience or inspiration from world traditions – that has uniquely helped them to awaken their inner light or to see the light in places it had once been hidden. Through words, sacred listening, and silence, we will weave a shared “garment” of light. -

#### **B) “Returning the Light: The Alter Rebbe’s Radical Revision of Lurianic *Kabbalah*” -Rabbi David Seidenberg (Spruce)**

Shneur Zalman, the Alter Rebbe of Chabad *Chasidus*, gave us a systematic exposition of *Kabbalah* in the *Tanya*. But the very last thing he wrote, *Igeret Hakodesh 20*, describes a radically new understanding of *Or Chozer*, the returning or reflected light, through which, he says, the magnificence of the earth and its power becomes manifest, a power that he says “surpasses even the hosts of heaven.” In this teaching, Shneur Zalman gave us a model for how to understand ecology in a kabbalistic way. We'll compare his ideas with Lurianic and Cordoveran precedents, and with his own earlier writings, in order to understand how deeply radical and transformative his last teaching was.

#### **C) “Helping the Turkey Prince Out From Under the Table: Reaching Out to the Mentally Ill in our Communities” -**

-Rabbinic Pastor Stephanie Tivona Reith (Aspen)

Statistically, one in four families has a family member living with a mental health challenge. Despite this prevalence, people living with mental disorders often live in a kind of darkness—isolated, marginalized, stigmatized, and even feared by society. In this workshop, we will explore Reb Nachman’s story of the Turkey Prince, as well as the concepts of *b’tzelem elohim* (being made in the

divine image), *ha-ger* (the stranger), and *tzedakah* (righteous action) and what they tell us about how our synagogues and *chavurot* can become more intentionally inclusive, supportive, and caring of those among us affected by mental illness. There will also be opportunities to share our own stories and experiences, and begin to develop ideas for action that we can take back into our own communities.

**D) "The Heavens, Heavens are for *Yah*, and the Earth was Given to Adam's Children." Ps 116:16 Re-turning to *Sh'khinah*;  
For life and health (Birch)**

-Rabbi T'mimah Ickovitz and Rabbi Sue Morningstar  
Technology, electronics and the Information Age gives humans many blessings. Not only can light can be accessed at will with the flip of a switch, but, today, obscure information can be researched in minutes with ease and comfort as never seen before in history. Unfortunately, there is a shadow side to these blessings, too. Before the advent of Technology, most humans lived, walked and slept directly on the Earth's surface. Today, most people live and work in buildings removed from vitality of Earth. Too few people take the opportunity or even have the inclination to touch Earth any more. These are aspects of *Sh'chinah* in exile. Come and learn the value of deeply communing with the Holy Mother of all life as we know it.

We will consider Torah, science, and new research to demonstrate how meeting the resonance of Mother Earth can enhance our well being.

3:45 – 4:45 pm **Snack** (Foyer)

4:35-5:00 pm **Mincha Delight** (Private Dining Room)  
- Rabbi Louis Sutker

5:15-6:15 pm **60-MINUTE WORKSHOPS**  
**A) "Waking Up Jewish Services by Adding Ecstatic Gospel Techniques to Your Bag of Tools"** (Private Dining Room)  
- Sharon Alexander, of "*Shir-Ecstasy*"

African-American gospel offers particular techniques that are easy, fun, and effective tools to increase the unity and excitement of the congregation, and even to evoke group

ecstatic trance. This experiential workshop will introduce you to many of these key techniques as you learn several “jospel” (Jewish gospel) pieces you can integrate into your services. If time allows, participants are invited to put forth favorite pieces that the group can then tweak to “gospelize,” using the rules we have learned. This workshop can be taken on its own, or in conjunction with the first session, offered on Monday. On Tuesday night, we will create a taste of a rocking jospel experience on the spot, by teaching the songs we have learned in workshop to the whole group.

**B) “Four Worlds of Spirituality for Mental Health”**

– Rabbinic Pastor Sherrill Gilbert (Aspen)

Many of us, as clergy and clergy students, interact with people who have mental illnesses in our congregations and communities. This workshop explores the powerful role of spirituality in the lives of persons living with these challenges. This is a practical training session in which participants will be introduced to a new tool, “Four Worlds Spirituality for Mental Health”, which is being used to help people living with mental illness find new meaning beyond the label of “mentally ill”. This session is for you if you provide adult education or spiritual direction in your congregation or community.

**C) “Letting in the Light of Learning in a Small Town. How Not to Go Dry and Dark”**

(Alder)

- Rabbi Alicia Magal

How do those of us who serve as “the rabbi” in a small community continue to thrive, learn, and grow, without burning out? This interactive discussion will touch on topics including: creating boundaries between professional and personal life; finding opportunities for personal study and growth; nurturing lay leaders to take on some responsibilities; stretching in areas of lesser competence when there is no other expert or scholar in the vicinity; avoiding over-involvement as community representative (when to say “no”) and other issues that are suggested from the group.

**D) “The Light of Dreams “**

(Birch)

-Rabbiinic Pastor Eve Ilsen

Our dreams reveal our internal landscape: how we perceive and interact with our world in waking life. They

can also be healing, prophetic, inspirational and problem-solving.

In this hour together, we will explore various ways of unpacking our dreams.

Bring your dream journal. If you do not have one, choose an unlined notebook, write the date of the following day before you go to sleep, and grab it first thing in the morning, before your dream evaporates.

- 6:15-7:30 pm     **Dinner**     (Interlocken A)  
-Birkat HaMazon:  
Private dinner meeting:  
• Joint ALEPH/OHALAH Ethics Committees     (Spruce)
- 7:30-8:00 pm     **Maariv**     (Interlocken B)  
-Rabbis Jan Salzman and Melissa Wenig
- 8:00- 9:30 pm     **EVENING PROGRAM**     (Interlocken B)
- **Sharon Alexander & the OHALAH Light Tones**  
Be uplifted by a performance of the Jewish gospel music that will have been prepared as part of Sharon's workshops. And, be amazed as she turns us into a choir!
  - **"Dancing with Temple" - Danya and Eyal Rivlin & Friends**  
Tired of sitting? We will dance, move, circle, spin to the danceable music of Temple, the Kirtan-based band that is headed by Boulder musicians Eyal Rivlin and Danya Uriel. Last year, we got a taste of their amazing music, and so we've brought them back again, but this time, with a focus on music to which we can dance.
- 9:45-11:00 pm     **LATE NIGHT**
- **Kirtan Rabbi Andrew Hahn & Friends**     (Interlocken B)  
Ready to sit again? (or, at least, move more slowly?) Rabbi Andrew Hahn, better known as the *Kirtan* Rabbi, will perform with a number of OHALAH friends. He will offer us that sweet opportunity to join our voices in sacred chant.
  - **Music and Musings**     (Piano Bar)
  - **Shmooze and News**     (Conversation Pit, Pub, Lobby)

Wednesday – January 11

7:45-8:45 am     **Breakfast**  
-*Birkat HaMazon*:

All Day – By appointment: Cantorial workshops with Chazzan Jack Kessler (?)  
All Day – As privately scheduled: ALEPH *Vaad* with Rabbi Marcia Prager (Board Room)

9:00-10:00 am     **Shacharit** (Interlocken B)  
-Rabbi Deb Kolodny and Rabbi Shawn Zevit

10:00- 11:00 am     **PLENARY: “Divine Sparks from Our *Zaide*”** - Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi (Interlocken B)  
We are privileged, once again, to receive an illuminating message from our beloved *Zaide*, Reb Zalman.

11:00 am             **“Our Candles Will Light Others” – Closing Circle**  
In the glow of what has enlightened us over these few precious days, we reflect, give thanks, and wish each other:  
***L’hitraot- N’siyyah Tovah***  
(Travel lunches may be picked up in Interlocken B)

**Post-Conference Events:**

Noon – 5:00 pm     ALEPH *Vaad* (Lunch noon – 2:15) (Boardroom)  
2:00 – 10:00 pm     OHALAH Board Retreat (Spruce)



## About our Presenters:

**Rabbi Judith Z. Abrams, Ph.D.**, specializes in Rabbinic Literature (Talmud and Midrash) and teaches in the ALEPH program. She is the author of many books on a wide variety of Jewish topics and runs a school for Talmud study: [www.maqom.com](http://www.maqom.com)

**Sharon Alexander** is a product of a Conservative Jewish education and has spent 25 years at the forefront of Jewish Renewal; as a community organizer, teacher, vocalist, and visionary. Sharon's professional path has been that of a spiritual midwife; using Body-Psychotherapy, Massage, and vocal, breath and energy work to encourage fellow travelers to both free and build their energy in order to ascend towards the divine. Says Sharon, "Singing IS my spiritual path; my way to open to God."

**Rabbi/Maggid Chava Bahle** serves Renewal's Makom Shalom and leads the Jewish Catholic Family School, both in Chicago. She lives in rural northern Michigan.

**Rabbi Elisheva Brenner** was ordained by Aleph in January, 2010. She is the Executive Director of the Center for Eco-Judaism in Pueblo, Colorado, assistant rabbi of Congregation B'nai Or of Pueblo, and co-founder of EcoGlatt, Inc. Elisheva is married to Rabbi Hersh Saunders.

**Rabbinic Pastor and Chaplain Shulamit Fagan** is the founding and current director of ALEPH's Rabbinic Pastor Program, a member of the ALEPH VAAD and the Haspa'ah faculty. She was a full time hospital chaplain for 10 years, teaches regularly, loves to tell stories, and loves being a Bubby

**Rabbi Jack/Ya'acov Gabriel** was born in a refugee camp in Italy to parents who survived the Holocaust. He says, "Things have gotten much better since then." This wry Rebbe has released nine recordings, received *Smicha* from Reb Zalman, *Shli"ta*, and has led every kind of Jewish Community except *Charedi* and Orthodox. He has a *Klezmer* Heart and a Reggae Soul. "Hidden Soul, Hidden Light" is an auto-biography in progress.

**Rabbinic Pastor Sherril Gilbert**, an ordained Deputy-Rabbi, Sherril is a graduate of the ALEPH Rabbinic Pastor Program and the ALEPH Hashpa'ah Program. She lives and works in Montreal as a congregational rabbi, adult educator, spiritual director and community chaplain. Her community work focuses on mental health promotion, positive aging, and food justice.

**Rabbi Elliot K. Ginsburg** wears many hats, not all of which are fedoras. He is a professor of Jewish Thought and Mysticism at the University of Michigan, the founding rabbi of the Pardes Hannah minyan in Ann Arbor, a member of the ALEPH S'micha Program Vaad (a term that will remain untranslated), and is the author of studies on Jewish mysticism, the kabbalistic Shabbat, and spiritual practice. Reb Elliot seeks to combine intellectual engagement with a devotional stance, and lives in Ann Arbor with his wife, Linda Jo Doctor. They "have" three wonderful 20-something kids, and two mostly wonderful cats (one of whom is considering the cantorial program).

**Rabbi Aubrey Glazer** collaborates with Elyssa Wortzman on inter-disciplinary projects bridging aesthetics and spirituality at the Jewish Community Center of Harrison, New York, where he serves as senior rabbi. Rabbi Glazer is editor of *Fons Vitae's Spiritual Affinities Series (Pillar of Prayer: Guidance in Contemplative Prayer, Sacred Study and the Spiritual Life, from the Baal Shem Tov)*, and completed his PH.D. in Hebrew Hermeneutics at the University of Toronto.

**Rabbi Ilan Glazer** is one of ALEPH's newest rabbis, and serves as the rabbi of Temple Beth El of North Bergen, NJ. Ilan has Maggidic *S'micha* from Yitzhak Buxbaum, is a Storahelling Maven, and is a proud graduate of *Kol Zimra* and DLTI. Prior to living in New Jersey, Ilan studied at the Pardes Institute of Jewish Studies, and was the *Nava Tehila* Rabbinic Intern and drummer. Ilan is very recently married to Leslie Hilgeman, and is thrilled to be at OHALAH once again.

**Rabbi Shefa Gold** received her ordination both from the Reconstructionist Rabbinical College and from Rabbi Zalman Schachter-Shalomi, and has led us in *Middot* Practices in the past. She is the director of CDEEP: Center for Devotional. Energy and Ecstatic practice, is the author of [Torah Journeys](#) and [In the Fever of Love](#) and has produced 10 CDs of liturgical music.

**Rabbi Ori Har-DiGennaro**, founder and co-director of Center For Spiritual Friendship, received her ordination from ALEPH, as a rabbi, Sage-ing Mentor, and Spiritual Director. A long-time meditator, Reb Ori is a life-long student and facilitator of embodiment as a spiritual path, as well as, the author of *God Speaks Here and Now; A Guide for Living*.

**Rabbi T'mimah Ickovits** is an ALEPH musmechet and works as a Renewal rabbi, spiritual guide, mover, and electrical engineer. T'mimah enters into Torah to offer holistic wisdom relevant to the ever-evolving needs of individuals and communities today. Rabbi T'mimah founded Ohr HaMakor, a home for Holistic Kabbalah in Santa Monica, CA, for study, prayer, and ritual. See [www.HolisticJew.Blogspot.com](http://www.HolisticJew.Blogspot.com), [www.KabbalahTmimah.org](http://www.KabbalahTmimah.org).

**Rabbinic Pastor Eve Ilsen** is a therapist, teacher, *rebbetzin*, storyteller and singer. For the years she lived in Israel, she was a student of Mme. Colette Aboulker-Muscat, master teacher of the use of Imagery and Waking Dream.

**Rabbi Laura Duhan Kaplan** is spiritual leader of Or Shalom Synagogue in Vancouver, Canada; lecturer in Religious Studies at UBC; member of the ALEPH *S'micha* Program Va-ad; and Professor Emerita of Philosophy, Theology, and Depth Psychology. When not working (ha ha), Laura spends time writing, walking, enjoying all species of urban life, and socializing with family-partner Charles, two older teens, cat, bird, newt, catfish, and four fire-belly toads. Due to a love of fabric art, she probably has more hats than Elliot. Please visit her blog and website, [www.relaura.com](http://www.relaura.com)

**Rabbinic Pastor David Daniel Klipper** was ordained in 2007. He currently works as a CPE Supervisor, Chaplain and spiritual director, and is president of the Rabbinic Pastors Association.

**Rabbi Riqi Kosovske** serves her fifth year as the rabbi of Beit Ahavah, the Reform synagogue of Greater Northampton in western MA. She received s'micha from Hebrew Union College in Los Angeles and is 2nd vice president of the New England Reform rabbis. She holds an MA/MFA in Writing & Consciousness from New College of San Francisco where she was once a Jewish educator-artist in the Bay Area. Her writing on Judaism includes work on the nexus of the sacred in the spirituality of birth, feminist theology and rabbinic consciousness. She is the mother of her amazing 7-year-old son, Chanina.

**Rabbinic Student Hanalei Laner** recently returned from a year of rabbinic study at the Pardes Institute in Jerusalem. She was deeply touched by her powerful encounters with Muslim and Christian Arabs, Ethiopian Jews, Settlers in the West Bank, religious and secular Jews, and by the complexity of living in the land.

**Rabbi Michael Lerner** is the author of 11 books including--*Jewish Renewal: A Path to Healing and Transformation*; *The Socialism of Fools: Anti-Semitism on the Left, Jews and Blacks* (with Cornel West), *Spirit Matters*; and in Dec. 2011 *Embracing Israel/Palestine*. He is a political activist, the editor of *Tikkun*, a progressive Jewish interfaith magazine, based in Berkeley, California, and is the rabbi of Bey Tikkun Synagogue of San Francisco.

**Rabbi Alicia Magal** (s'micha from Aleph 2003, and AJR-CA 2003) serves as the spiritual leader of the Jewish Community of Sedona and the Verde Valley. She is very active in community interfaith and outreach programs, and is continually surprised by the array of requests she receives to lead or participate in unusual programs and life cycle events.

**Rabbi Sue Mauer Morningstar** received ALEPH rabbinic ordination in 2009 in Boulder. She is an active member of *Havurah Shir Hadash* in Ashland, Oregon, the temporary interim rabbi at Temple *Emek Shalom* in Ashland, and a midwife and nurse practitioner for women's health. She lives in the gorgeous mountains of southern Oregon and is married to her kindergarten sweetheart and beloved life partner, Howie, a holistic family doctor. Coming from a long line of strong, intelligent women who were denied the ability to fulfill their potential, Sue feels her babies' *kvelling* at her reaching the unimaginable status of rabbi.

**Rabbinic Pastor Stephanie Tivona Reith** is a hospice chaplain and board member of a homeless shelter in Port Townsend, WA. Her CPE training included working for several months in a hospital psychiatric unit.

**Rabbi Shalom Schachter** was ordained by ALEPH in 2005 following earlier studies at *Lubavitcher Yeshivot* in the 1960s. His life has been devoted to Tikkun Olam, for the most part representing health care workers and fighting for better public health care.

**Rabbi David Seidenberg** is a theologian, dancer, and activist, and one of the foremost scholars working on Judaism and ecology today. He teaches eco-Torah and *niggunim* around the world and through [www.neohasid.org](http://www.neohasid.org), and he has just completed a groundbreaking book on God's

image in the more-than-human world. David has s'micha from Reb Zalman and JTS, where he also received a doctorate.

**Rabbi Hanna Tiferet Siegel** has devoted her life to the Renewal of Jewish community, liturgy, song and practice. Their traditional and creative approach to prayer opens the gates for a new light to shine upon us all.

**Rabbi Richard Simon** was ordained by Reb Zalman in 1985, and has been a congregational rabbi ever since. He is the current chairman of the OHALAH Ethics Committee.

**Rabbi Ed Stafman** is Rabbi of Congregation Beth Shalom in Bozeman, MT, where he does a large amount of interfaith work. He was ordained by ALEPH in 2008, and lacks only a dissertation for his PhD in Early Judaism, Christianity & Greco-Roman religion from Florida State University.

**Rabbi Orna Triguboff** is a trained Hatha yoga teacher who received rabbinic smicha in January 2012. She is passionate about integrating prayer with body work – finding ways to understand and experience Jewish teachings spiritually, intellectually, emotionally and physically.

**Rabbi Arthur Waskow** was legislative assistant to a US Congressman beginning in 1959; wrote a number of books on US military strategy, racial conflict, and nonviolence; was a leader of the movement to end the Vietnam War; and entered the world of rebirthing Judaism with the *Freedom Seder* in 1969, *Godwrestling* in 1978, and *Seasons of Our Joy* in 1982. He founded The Shalom Center in 1983 and has since written, co-authored, or edited about a dozen books of Jewish thought and practice. He pioneered in urging a two-state peace settlement between Israel and Palestine; initiating Abrahamic interfaith action; and shaping the theory and practice of Eco-Judaism.

**Rabbi Melissa Star Wenig** was ordained by ALEPH as Rabbinic Pastor in 2005 and as a Rabbi in January 2010. She now leads Congregation B'nai Or Boston as one of their spiritual leaders and was interim spiritual leader at Congregation *Ahavas Achim* in Newburyport, Massachusetts for 18 months. Melissa travels over the New England area, leading, teaching Torah, bringing families together for rite-of-passage events, along with officiating weddings and other lifecycle occasions.

**Elyssa Wortzman** collaborates with Rabbi Aubrey Glazer on inter-disciplinary projects, bridging aesthetics and spirituality at the Jewish Community Center of Harrison, New York. Elyssa is currently completing *Lev Shomea's* Spiritual Direction program. She has completed IJS's "Yoga Training for Awakened Life" program, consults for Rain of Blessings, and is an artist and art teacher (*Bet Shalom's* 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Judaica show, White Plains, NY).